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MINING OPERATIONS IN THE KIZEL BASIN

P. G. Plikhin

The Kizel Basin has become a part of the Ural-Kuznetsk coal and metallurgical base. Mechanization of coal removal has increased from 39 percent in 1927 to 100 percent at present. Labor productivity was 2.3 times as great in 1941 as in 1927.

During the war, when the USSR was temporarily deprived of the Moscow and Donets coal basins, the Ural coal industry expanded greatly to make its contribution to the nation's fuel requirements. In a short period 26 new mines were constructed and put into operation, and working of 26 new levels in mines already operating was begun. Exploitation of the new Kospashiskiy and Gremyachinskii deposits went into effect rapidly. The technical equipment of the mines increased sharply. The number of cutting machines rose 74 percent, and the number of electric locomotives rose 300 percent.

Workers of mines and trusts of the Molotovugol' Combine were repeatedly awarded the Red Banner of the State Defense Committee, and after the war this banner was retained permanently by the Kizel Basin miners.

Molotovugol' Combine fulfilled the Five-Year Plan for level of production in the first 3 years of the Postwar Five-Year Plan, and in August 1950 it completed the Five-Year Plan for total volume of production. More than 11,000 miners in the basin are already working on their quotas for the next 5 years.

Ural miners have received more than 100 million rubles in monetary awards during a 3-year period. More than 3,000 miners were presented with orders and medals of the Soviet Union in 1948 and 1949. Nearly 400 miners have been designated "Honored Miner."

However, not all mines of the basin have high technical and economic indexes. The rate of progress in development work and the advance of the mine face are slow. The available stock of mining machinery and mechanisms is exploited inadequately. The fixed level for labor productivity has not yet been achieved, and labor is poorly organized at the mine face. Consequently, some workers do not complete their quotas.

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Improvement would result from converting all mine faces in sloping seams to a two-shift method of operation, and from a more rapid introduction of the cycle system of work. Small shaft-sinking brigades (six to nine persons) should be dissolved, and several multipurpose brigades, equipped with all types of modern techniques, should be created for each mine.

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